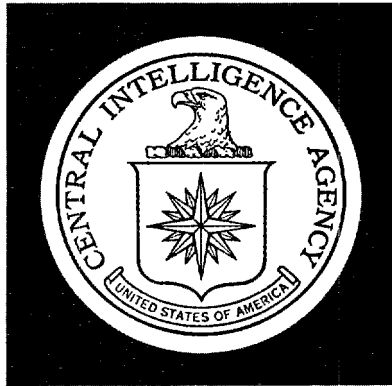


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*Congo (Kinshasa): President Mobutu's decision to bring rebel leader Pierre Mulele to trial will head off adverse public reaction to Mulele's recent amnesty.

Mulele, an associate of leftist former premier Patrice Lumumba, was the only rebel leader of stature still holding out against the central government inside the Congo. He fled to Brazzaville in mid-September from the western Congo where he had been waging guerrilla warfare since 1963. Following weekend talks in Brazzaville with Foreign Minister Bomboko, Mulele was granted amnesty. His triumphant return to Kinshasa on 29 September received wide television coverage and he was given red carpet treatment by top Kinshasa officials.

Public reaction, however, has been adverse; many Congolese have been incensed by this turnabout in view of the many atrocities ascribed to Mulele. Members of the army have been particularly disturbed--so much so that army commander Louis Bobozo on 30 September made a radio appeal for officers and enlisted men to keep cool and accept this newest effort toward national reconciliation.

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When Mobutu returned yesterday from his three-week trip to North Africa, he reversed Bomboko's decision to grant the amnesty. Brazzaville officials turned Mulele over in good faith, however, and some may be upset about this apparent duplicity. [REDACTED]

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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Afghanistan: Prime Minister Etemadi, just back from Paris where he underwent treatment, appeared in excellent health during a recent 75-minute interview with the US ambassador. The prime minister claims the doctors in Paris believe he is cured and will remain in good health as long as he receives sufficient rest. If Etemadi's apparent vitality and determination to discharge his responsibilities continue, King Zahir should find it easier to resist conservative pressure to replace him before the 1969 elections.

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